

August 10, 2005

The President
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

We write to respectfully urge you to meet with Cindy Sheehan and other members of the Gold Star Families for Peace that are waiting near your Crawford ranch for an appointment with you to discuss their deep concerns about the war in Iraq. We also request that you help ensure that Ms. Sheehan and her colleagues are not arrested as long as they continue to wait for a meeting with you at their location in the peaceable and legal manner that they have maintained thus far.

Since the loss of her son, Ms. Sheehan and other Gold Star families have been committed to helping family members of other soldiers who have been lost in Iraq. Ms. Sheehan, in fact, founded Gold Star Families for Peace, a support organization for families of fallen soldiers. For several days now, she has been waiting outside your ranch, hoping to meet with you about the loss of her son and the failure to discover weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Ms. Sheehan has indicated that she is planning to continue her vigil for the entirety of your vacation at your Crawford complex if necessary.

Given the recent tragic loss of American lives in Iraq, and the many deaths and injuries American troops have sustained since the beginning of the war, we hope that you can appreciate why the Gold Star Families believe it so important that they exercise their rights as citizens to petition their government. We believe it would send an unfortunate message to other family members and soldiers if grieving parents were arrested while exercising their constitutional rights.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this matter. We hope that you will be able to make time to meet with Ms. Sheehan and her colleagues and also ensure they are treated fairly while awaiting this important appointment.